

support for alternative therapies with their pocketbooks.

In 1990 alone, the New England Journal of Medicine found that Americans spent nearly \$14 billion on alternative therapies, and made more visits to alternative practitioners than they did to primary care doctors.

American consumers are turning to these therapies because they're a less expensive and more prevention-based alternative to conventional treatments. And they're investing their dollars and their hopes without hard scientific evidence of the effectiveness—or ineffectiveness—of these alternative treatments. The American people have a right to know whether these alternative treatments are effective! That's why the Office of Alternative Medicine was created in the first place * * * to begin evaluating the efficacy, safety and potential cost effectiveness of alternative medical therapies. This is a health issue and a consumer issue, and the American people deserve nothing less!

Admittedly, since its creation three years ago, the Office has gotten off to a slow start. That's due to the continued skepticism of the medical establishment as well as the office's own mismanagement and lack of planning. It's for this reason that I'm so encouraged by the document being presented today to the NIH. This report, which represents more than 2 years of work by more than 200 practitioners and researchers of alternative medicine, should serve as the basis for a long-term strategic plan for the Office of Alternative Medicine.

It's my sincere hope that the NIH will carefully read this document and use some of its recommendations to put the office back on track, to begin operating efficiently and expand its investigations of alternative therapies.●

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SMALL BUSINESS

● Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the just concluded 1995 White House Conference on Small Business, and especially to 18 of my fellow Arkansans who traveled a great distance at personal expense to participate in this conference. These delegates took time away from their work and their families to represent the Arkansas business community and are to be commended for their dedication and sacrifice. The Arkansas business owners who attended the conference as national delegates and their respective businesses are as follows:

J. Baker, Baker Car and Truck Rental, Inc., Little Rock; Bob Boyd, Boyd Music and Pro Sound, Inc., Little Rock; Greg Brown, Union Bancshares of Benton, Inc., Benton; Mel Coleman, North Arkansas Electric Cooperative, Salem; Dexter Doyne, Doyne Construction Company, Inc., North Little Rock; Bill Ferren, B-B-F Oil Company, Inc., Pine Bluff; Michael Jackson, Jackson Development Group, Brinkley; Thomas Jacoway, Artran, Inc., Springdale; Phyllis Kinnaman, P.K. Interiors, Little Rock; Charles Mazander, Mazander Engineered Equipment, Inc., Little Rock; Bruce McFadden, Improved Construction Methods, Inc., Jacksonville; Ron McFarlane, Process 1500, Inc., Little Rock; Mary Rebick, Copy Systems, Little Rock; Mary Gay Shipley, That Bookstore, Blytheville; Walter Thayer,

Walter Thayer & Associates, Inc., Little Rock; Daniel Warmack, Warmack and Company, Fort Smith; and George White, Delta Vending Enterprises, West Helena.

Mr. President, the 1995 White House Conference was created by a Congress and President who care about small business—specifically, a Democratic Congress and a Republican President. In 1993, small business in this country was responsible for 50 percent of the gross domestic product, while employing 54 percent of the American work force. This conference was attended by approximately 2,500 delegates from around the country to discuss the most pressing issues facing small businesses.

Although political circumstances have changed, the President and Congress still deeply care about the views and interests of small business owners. Recently, President Clinton signed into law a reauthorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1992, a law that was originally proposed by the first White House Conference on Small Business during the Carter administration in 1980.

Recognizing the important role that the Small Business Administration plays in promoting the entrepreneurial spirit, Congress has said no to proposals to abolish that agency. I am proud to say that last year SBA was directly responsible for stimulating \$10.6 billion in small business growth while spending only \$232 million of American taxpayer money—an amount, I might add, less than the taxes paid by three companies that started with SBA loans—Intel, Apple, and Federal Express.

It's time to listen again to the backbone of our country. In the weeks to come, the White House Conference delegates will be sending their suggestions for the future of small business to both the President and the Congress. On behalf of the 18 delegates from my home state, I urge this Congress to take a close look at their suggestions and debate the legislative agenda set forth by the 1995 White House Conference on Small Business.●

SEVENTH ANNUAL CHINESE HERITAGE FESTIVAL

● Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, our country is a remarkable mosaic—a mixture of races, languages, ethnicities and religions—that grows increasingly diverse with each passing year. Nowhere is this incredible diversity more evident than in the State of New Jersey. In New Jersey, schoolchildren come from families that speak 120 different languages at home. These different languages are used in over 1.4 million homes in my State. I have always believed that one of the United States greatest strengths is the diversity of the people that make up its citizenry and I am proud to call the attention of my colleagues to an event in New Jersey that celebrates the importance of the diversity that is a part of America's collective heritage.

On June 4, 1995, the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel, New Jersey began its 1995 Spring Heritage Festival Series. This Heritage Festival program salutes many of the different ethnic communities that contribute so greatly to New Jersey's diverse makeup. Highlighting old country customs and culture, the festival programs are an opportunity to express pride in the ethnic backgrounds that are a part of our collective heritage. Additionally, the Spring Heritage Festivals will contribute proceeds from their programs to the Garden State Arts Center's Cultural Center Fund which presents theater productions free-of-charge to New Jersey's schoolchildren, seniors and other deserving residents. The Heritage Festival thus not only pays tribute to the cultural influences from our past, it also makes a significant contribution to our present day cultural activities.

On Saturday, June 17, 1995, the Heritage Festival Series will celebrate the 7th Annual Chinese Heritage Festival. Cochaired by Margaret Ko Ma of Murray Hill and Chia Wang Whitehouse of Freehold, this year's event promises to be a grand celebration alive with colorful costumes, traditional foods, ethnic arts and crafts and talented entertainers of Chinese descent. The day-long event will feature a martial arts display by the Shaolin Hung School, as well as traditional flower, lion and drum dancers and music from China will highlight the artistic program. Mall activities will also include an arts and crafts exhibit, vendors selling Chinese food and a fine arts exhibit will feature both traditional and modern Chinese art.

On behalf of all New Jerseyans of Chinese descent, I offer my congratulations on the 7th anniversary of the Chinese Heritage Festival.●

SKI AREA FEE STRUCTURE REFORM

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise to ask my colleagues to take a close look at a bill which I cosponsored with Senator MURKOWSKI and others. The ski area fee system for Forest Service special use permits needs reform and S. 907 is a good way to get this done.

Skiing is one of the best uses that we have today on our national forests. The ski industry brings millions of people to the mountains to enjoy fresh air, scenery, and the mountain environment. Few other national forest activities are able to host such intense public use with relatively minimal impact.

In fact, many resorts have taken extra steps to protect and enhance the environmental resources with trail and resort designs that include modifications for wildlife use, special sensitivities to wetlands, base villages that minimize the need for cars, and plantings that provide forage for birds. Over the years ski resorts have become adept at reducing water pollution, erosion, and snowmaking. There are still